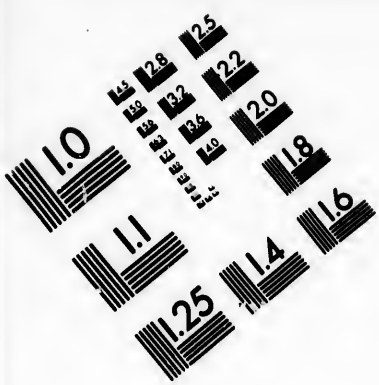

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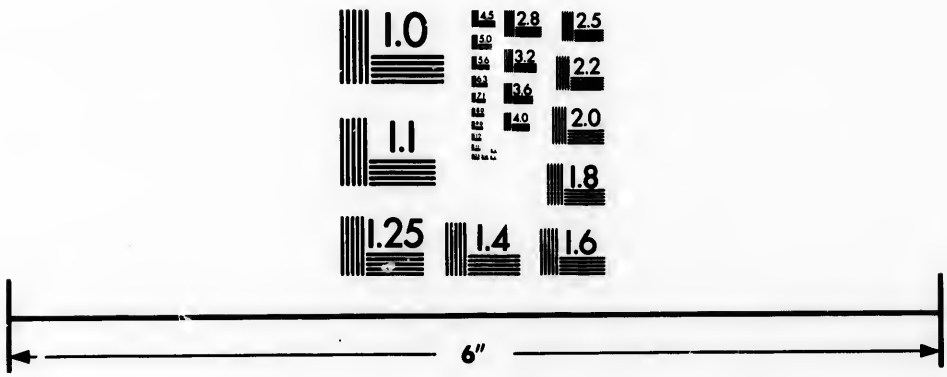

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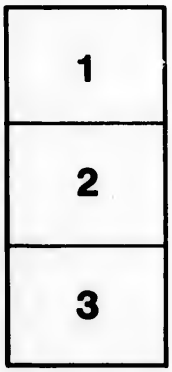

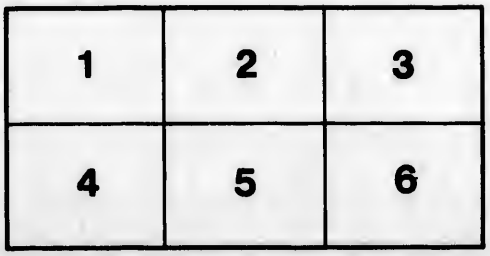

CONSTITUTION

AND

GENERAL LAWS

OF THE

Farmers' & Mechanics' Institute

OF STREETSVILLE,

IN THE

COUNTY OF PEEL.

Incorporated, April 3rd, 1854.

Quæ prosunt omnibus.

STREETSVILLE:
PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE WEEKLY REVIEW.

1858.

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PREFACE.

It is not easy to over estimate the value of Mechanics' Institutes. For upwards of half a century they have been in operation in the mother country, and attended with the most gratifying results. Many instances could be cited of their having been the means of developing and nurturing the latent energies of men, whose names are now "familiar as household words" in the annals of science, and who, but for such fosterage, might have lived and died without having made any contribution to the world's stock of knowledge.

In our comparatively new land, the benefits of associations like those referred to, must be plain to the most superficial thinker.

The means of acquiring knowledge are but sparsely scattered over the Province. Few can avail themselves of the advantages which our Universities supply. Information on all matters not embraced in the limited curriculum of a common school education, must be brought home to the doors of the people at large, if there is to be any increase looked for in their intellectual stature.

Thus to popularize knowledge is the special mission of the Mechanics' Institute, and that work it is well fitted to carry out. By securing the establishment of judiciously selected libraries—by procuring the services of distinguished

lecturers on literature, science and art—and by encouraging the interchange of ideas amongst parties desirous of improving their mental faculties, such associations have a necessary tendency to elevate the moral condition of society.

Well deserving of thoughtful digestion are some remarks made by the celebrated Dr. George Birkbeck, at the laying the foundation stone of the London Mechanics' Institute.

"Whilst I remind you," said the Doctor, "that the illustrious Bacon, long ago, maintained that 'knowledge is power,' I may apprize you that it has, since his time, been established, that knowledge is wealth—is comfort—is security—is enjoyment—is happiness. It has been found so completely to mingle with human affairs, that it renders social life more endearing; has given to morality more sprightliness; and politically has produced more consistent obedience. It takes from adversity some of its bitterness and enlarges the sphere, as well as augments the sweetness of every laudable gratification; and it becomes at once an avenue and a guide to that 'temple which is not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.'"

Mere supererogation would it be, to add another word in commendation of the Institute—the "Constitution and General Laws" of which are now given to the public. Every reflective man, every genuine patriot must feel called upon to advance the interests of an association claiming to ameliorate at once the moral and physical condition of the community amongst which it is established.

DECLARATION

OF THE

STREETSVILLE

Farmers' & Mechanics' Institute.

COUNTY OF PEEL,
One of the United Counties of York and Peel,
TO-WIT:

WE, the undersigned, the President, office-bearers and committee of the Library Association and Mechanics' Institute, heretofore established and known as "The Streetsville Farmers' and Mechanics' Institute," hereby make declaration, under and by virtue of the Act of the Parliament of Canada, 14 and 15 Vic., cap. 86, entitled "An Act to provide for the incorporation and better management of Library Associations and Mechanics' Institutes.

Firstly, as follows: We declare that it is our wish and determination to become incorporated, according to the provisions of the above mentioned Act, under and by the corporate name of

"The Streetsville Farmers' and Mechanics' Institute," to be located in the Village of Streetsville, in the County of Peel, having for its object the formation of a Library and Reading Room, the organization of classes for the mutual improvement of the members thereof in any particular study, art, science, trade, business, manufacture, or for other useful purposes, the obtaining gratuitously or otherwise members of the Institute, or other persons, to deliver lectures or addresses to the members thereof or its classes, and the holding of meetings for the management of the internal and financial affairs of the association, and for debates, lectures, readings, and all other subjects comprised within the objects of a Library Association and Mechanics' Institute.

Secondly: We declare that the amount of property held by, and in trust for the said Institution, is valued at the sum of £49.

Thirdly: We declare the affairs of the Institution are to be managed, officers to be appointed, new members to be admitted, and the general business of the same to be conducted according to, and in conformity with the constitution, general laws and by-laws of the said Institution; a copy of which is filed with this declaration, according to the provisions of the said above mentioned Act.

In Witness Whereof, we, the said President, office bearers and committee, have made and signed this Declaration at Streetsville, aforesaid, this first day of April, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty-four.

(Signed)
JAMES PATERSON.....President.
JOHN CRUMBIE.....1st Vice-President.
JOHN BARNHART, Jr.....2d Vice-President.

DIRECTORS:

Robert Barber,
Bennet Franklin,
John Embleton,
John Street,
W. H. Paterson,
Robert Leslie,
William Jones,
Richard Cuthbert,
John Crow,
William Ker,
John Scruton,
William Holborne, (by his attorney, Wm. Hope.)

William Hope.....Corresponding Secretary.
S. J. Barnhart.....Recording Secretary.
George Cruikshanks.....Treasurer.
John Balmer.....Librarian.

Filed the 3rd day of April, 1854, at quarter-past twelve o'clock, noon.

S. BREGA,

Registrar County of Peel.

I certify this to be a true copy.

FRANK B. BREGA,

Deputy Registrar, County of Peel.

CONSTITUTION
AND GENERAL LAWS.

WHEREAS an Association hath been formed under the name and designation of "The Farmers' and Mechanics' Institute," of Streetsville, and a Declaration filed and registered in accordance with the requirements of an Act of Parliament, 14 and 15 Vic., cap. 86, incorporating the said Institute, and conferring upon it certain corporate powers.

By virtue of the said Act, this Constitution and the General Laws of said Institute hath been framed and adopted.

The objects of the Institute shall be the mental culture of its members in the arts, sciences, trades and manufactures; formation of a Circulating Library and Reading Room; organization of classes for the mutual improvement of its members; promotion of useful knowledge by the delivery of Courses of Lectures and Addresses, all of which are classified in the following numerical order, and the General Laws under the heads of articles:

1st. The f nation of a Library and Reading Room.

2nd. The holding of meetings for the management of its internal and financial affairs, and for debates, lectures, reading and all other subjects comprised within the design of the Institute.

3rd. The organization of classes for the mutual improvement of its members in any particular study, art, science, trade, business, manufactures, branch of knowledge, or for other useful purposes.

4th. The obtaining gratuitously or otherwise, persons to give instructions, lectures or addresses to the members of the Institute or its classes.

Article 1. That for the management of the affairs of the Institute, there shall be elected by the members of the said Institute, at the special or annual meetings, the following officers:—A President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian, and twelve other members to form a General Committee of the Institute.

Art. 2. That the annual meeting for the election of said officers and members of General Committee, shall be held on the first Monday in November in each year, and officers and committee so elected, to enter upon their duties the Monday following.

Art. 3. That for the filling up of casual vacancies in the offices or committee, an extraordinary meeting shall be called by the President, Vice-

President, or any three Committee men, and at such meeting any member or members eligible, may be nominated and elected to the office till the next annual election.

Art. 4. That all propositions for Membership shall be made in writing, at the regular meeting of the General Committee, and the name of the proposer and seconder to be placed in some conspicuous part of the Library, to remain there till the next general meeting, when the election shall take place. Affirmation votes of three-fourths of those present necessary to elect a candidate. Seven shall form a quorum for the election of an ordinary member.

Art. 5. That seven members shall form a quorum at any meeting of the General Committee.

Art. 6. That extraordinary meetings of the Members and General Committee may be held according to the manner prescribed by the By-Laws of the Institute, fifteen to form a quorum at any such meeting of the General Committee.

Art. 7. That the Committee of the Institution can make By-Laws, Rules and Regulations from time to time, as may be deemed necessary for the government of its affairs.

Art. 8. That the property held by the Institute shall be vested in the Association, which is to be held responsible for all debts, and may enforce all claims in favor thereof.

ART. 9. That no member shall be liable in his private capacity, for any debts incurred by the Institute.

BY-LAWS

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE OFFICERS, MEMBERS AND AFFAIRS OF THE INSTITUTE.

SECTION I.—*Members.*

ART. 1. A member upon proposing any person to be elected a member of this Institute, shall pay to the Secretary an entrance fee of two shillings and sixpence, currency.

ART. 2. Each candidate for Membership shall be voted for by ballot, and in the manner provided for in Article 4, General Laws.

ART. 3. Each member shall pay an annual subscription of five shillings.

ART. 4. The annual subscription of members may commence on the first of any month, and no subscription shall be received for less than twelve months.

ART. 5. Members whose subscriptions are paid up, are eligible to all offices, to vote at all elections of officers or committee men, and on all questions relative to the conduct of officers, members, or property of the Institute; to the use of the Library, Reading Room and Museum; to

attend lectures, classes, &c., under rules made by the committee, and on payment of the fees annexed thereto.

Art. 6. All members whose subscriptions have run out three months, and declining to pay up the same when applied to, shall be expelled by the committee. Any member expelled for immoral conduct or improper language, or for introducing political or religious discussions, shall not be allowed to apply for re-admission until six months after such expulsion, and then only on payment of the ordinary entrance fee.

Art. 7. Members of other Mechanics' Institutes, who have belonged thereto, and paid to, within three months previous to application, may be elected without payment of entrance fee, and shall not be required to pay any subscription until the expiration of the period for which they may have paid their subscription to such Institute. The committee to decide upon the right of the claimant.

Art. 8. Members of other Mechanics' Institutes in this Province, which may make similar regulations to the following, visiting this Town, shall, upon production of their Card of Membership, be entitled to all the privileges of members of this Institute, except that of voting at meetings.

SECTION II.—*Election of Officers and Committee.*

ART. 1. One month previous to the day of the annual election, a list of the members eligible for office shall be placed in the Library, from which any member may nominate one other member for each of the offices and committee, and shall sign his own name to such nomination; and if one week previous to the day of the election, the number of nominees does not amount to double the number to be elected, the committee shall, if they see fit, fill it up to that number, which shall be the only candidates allowed.

ART. 2. When only one member is nominated to any office, he shall be declared elected; and should more than one be nominated, the election shall be decided by a majority of votes.

ART. 3. Any member being nominated to an office and not elected thereto shall be eligible to be elected on the committee.

ART. 4. Each member shall write on a slip of paper the names of any twelve members from the list of nominations, who shall be elected as provided for in the General Laws.

ART. 5. The officers and committee shall be elected by ballot, except in the case provided for in Article 2. Two scrutineers of the ballot shall be appointed at the time of the election.

SECTION III.—*Duties of Officers and Committee.*

ART. 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Institute, or General Committee, and in case of an equal division of the members on any question, shall give the casting vote. He shall have power to call meetings of the Institute or General Committee, on his own motion, or on the requisition of four committee men or twelve members.

ART. 2. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside. The Vice-President may call any meeting which it is competent for the President to call.

ART. 3. The committee shall have custody of the property of the Institute; they shall receive and pay all monies for rent, attendance, purchase of books, instruments, &c., they shall have power to make regulations for the care and distribution of the Library, to procure lectures to be delivered, to expel or fine members for non-payment of fees or subscriptions, or for immoral or improper language or conduct, or for introducing political or religious discussions; in all cases of expulsion, except for non-payment of fees or subscription, the expelled member shall have the right of appeal to the next general meeting of the Institute; to fix the sums to be paid by members for attending classes, or for other privileges which require separate payments; to make regulations for the

admission of non-members to the Lectures or other benefits of the Institute; to appoint sub-committees to execute any measures designed to promote the objects of the Institute, and shall annually present a report of their proceedings to the members.

Art. 4. The Secretary shall accurately and at large record the proceedings of the Institute and committee; announce all meetings, sign all certificates of membership, receive all monies from members, and pay the same to the Treasurer, keeping an account thereof; and shall have the charge and custody of the Seal.

Art. 5. The Secretary shall keep copies of all letters written by him on the business of the Institute or committee, in a proper book for reference; and also regular files of all letters and other papers which may be addressed to him, relating to the business of the Institute or committee.

Art. 6. The Librarian shall attend at the Library room every evening on which it is opened; he shall have charge of and keep in order all books, documents and apparatus belonging to the Institute, and a correct catalogue of the same, and an accurate account of all books delivered to or received from members. He shall also report to the committee any loss or damage which may occur; and the committee may at their discretion,

either fine or suspend the privileges of any member chargeable with such loss or damage; any member so fined or suspended may appeal to a general meeting of the Institute.

ART. 7. The Treasurer shall receive all monies, and hold the same subject to the order of the committee; he shall pay no bill unless sanctioned by them and signed by their Chairman; and shall make a report quarterly of his receipts and disbursements.

SECTION IV.—*Meetings.*

ART. 1. The stated general meetings of the Institute shall be held on the second Monday in February, May, August, and November.

ART. 2. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the committee shall have power to call extraordinary general meetings of the Institute.

ART. 3. The ordinary meetings of the general committee shall be held on the first Monday in every month.

ART. 4. Special meetings of the general committee may be called by the Secretary on his own motion, or on the requisition of any three committee men, or six members.

Section V.—*Classes.*

Art. 1. Application for the formation of classes for the study of any branch of science or Literature, must be made in writing to the general committee, and state the nature and object of the class, and the probable plan proposed to be pursued, together with the names of the persons willing to unite in it; and no class shall be formed without the consent of the committee.

Art. 2. The members of the class which may be formed with the concurrence of the committee, shall make laws for their own guidance, subject to the approval of the committee.

Art. 3. Classes so organized shall be provided with a room and furniture without charge, should there be a room unoccupied, and shall be held liable for the expense of light and attendance, unless when specially exempted therefrom by the committee.

Section VI.—*Library and Reading Room.*

Art. 1. The Library and Reading Room shall be open on such days and hours as the committee may direct.

Art. 2. Members upon application to the Librarian may take one volume from the room and and retain it for the time specified on the label; and if desired, an extension of one week shall be

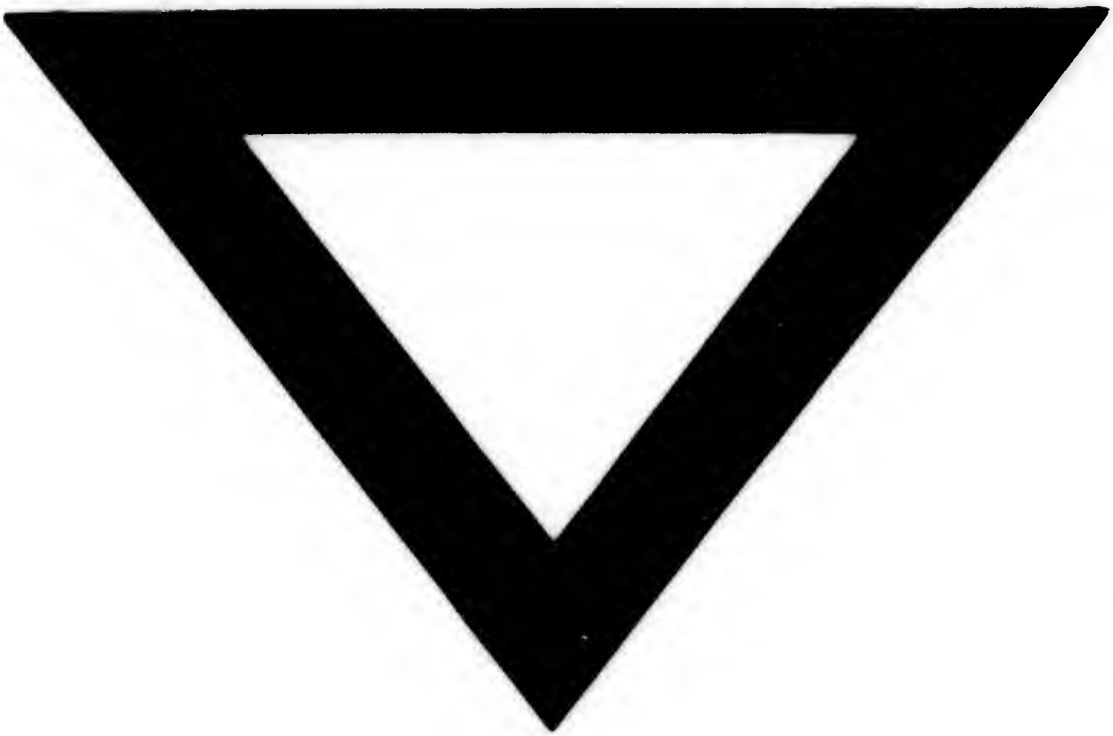
given, provided no other member shall have left a written request for the volume in the meantime. No member shall have more than one volume in his possession at any one time, unless some other shall be obviously necessary for its elucidation.

ART. 3. Any member keeping a book longer than the time specified, without the consent of the Librarian, shall be fined threepence for every week it is so detained, and when eight fines shall have been incurred, the Librarian shall inform the party thereof in writing; and in case the book is not returned and the fines paid, he shall report the same to the committee at their next meeting.

ART. 4. A blank book shall be placed in the Library, in which any member may recommend to the committee the purchase of any book, subscribing his own name thereto; which shall be added to the Library should the funds of the Institute allow it, and the committee approve of the same.

SECTION VII.—*Life and Honorary Members.*

ART. 1. Any person deemed worthy of that honor may be admitted an honorary member upon an unanimous open vote of the general committee, (notice of such proposition having been given at the previous meeting.)

Art. 2. Honorary members shall have all the privileges of members of this Institute,

Art. 3. All persons otherwise eligible can, by paying the sum of £5, be admitted as members for life to all the benefits of the Institute.